

REMARKS

Claims 20-21 and 24-31 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 17-19, 22-23 and 32-34. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 20 and 21.

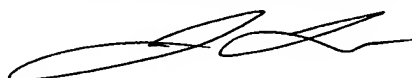
Claims 17, 19, 22 to 26 and 28 to 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,227,062 ("Doman"). Claims 18 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doman in view of a court decision cited in M.P.E.P. § 2144.07. Claims 17-19, 22-23 and 32-34 have been canceled, and remaining independent claims 24-26 have been amended to recite substantially similar limitations as the allowed claim 20. In particular, independent claims 24-26 incorporate the feature deemed to be novel over the applied prior art, i.e., "a holding current, via which a corresponding one of the at least two valves is held in an end position in a stable manner, is used as the actual current." Applicants submit that the amendments present no new issue, since the amendments simply incorporate the previously presented allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 24-26, as well as claims 27-31 which ultimately depend from claim 26, are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

 (R.No. 36,197)

Dated: February 27, 2006

By: JONG LEE for Gerard Messina
Gerard A. Messina
Reg. No. 35,952
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200
CUSTOMER NO. 26646